

When All You Can Trust is the Story

A Parent's Perspective on the CANS

Jen Griffis - May 14, 2019 - Vermont CANS Summit

A little introduction...

- ❖ wife to a small-town doctor
- ❖ homeschooling mom
- ❖ elementary teacher and librarian
- ❖ parent consultant
- ❖ certified parent coach
- ❖ non-profit founder
- ❖ mental health advocate
- ❖ outdoor adventurer
- ❖ lover of words



Power of Trusting Stories...

at both the treatment and system level

- ❖ Parents NEED to trust their story
- ❖ Professionals CAN trust parent stories
- ❖ Parents feel EMPOWERED when allowed to share their story
- ❖ Systems are IMPROVED when parents' stories are heard and valued



Parents **NEED** to trust their story

- ❖ Their story anchors them to reality
- ❖ Their story speaks for them
- ❖ Their story holds their hope for the future



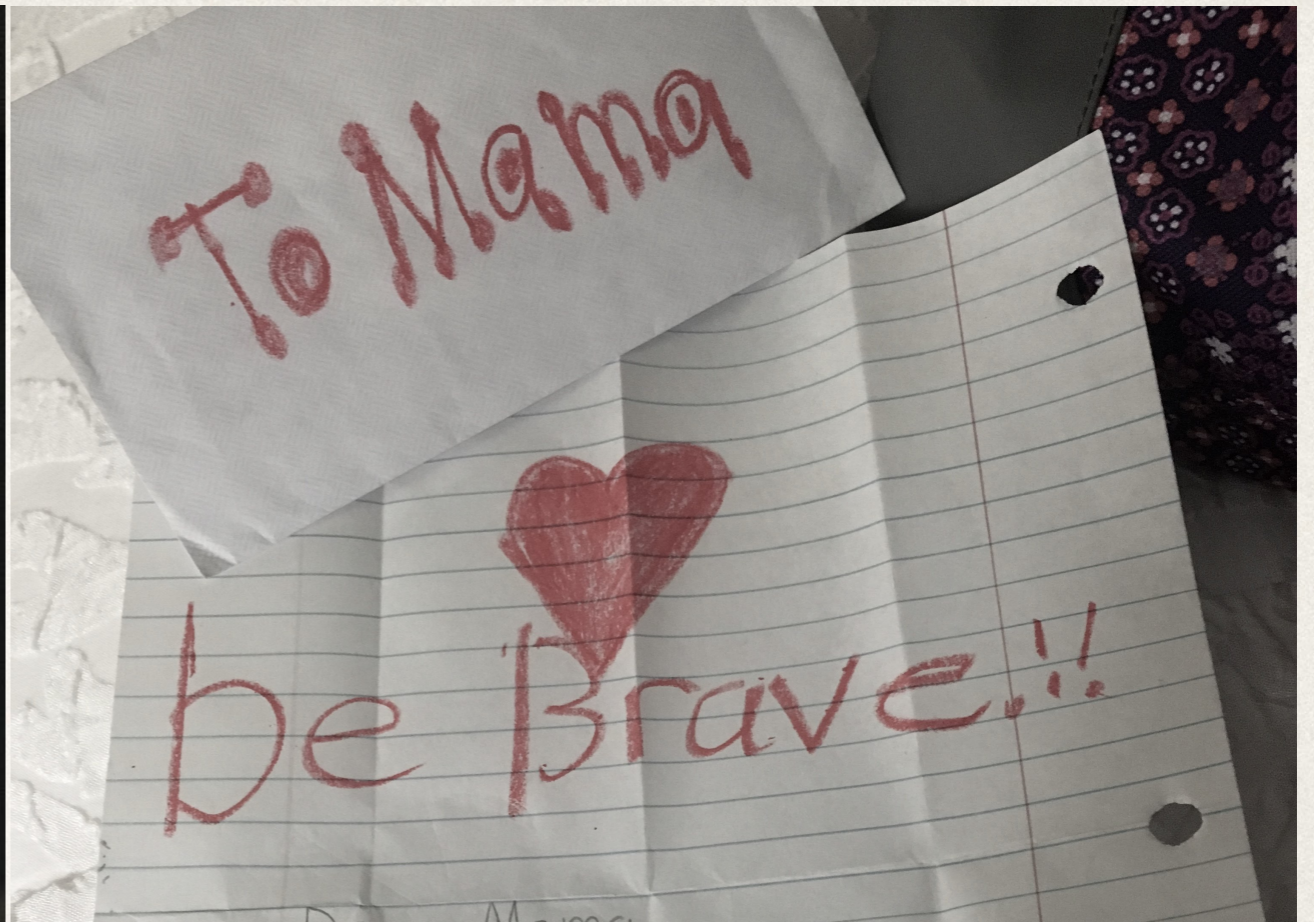
Professionals CAN trust parent stories

- ❖ Trust keeps curiosity alive
- ❖ Trust allows parents to be the expert
- ❖ Trust creates a partnership

Power of Trusting Stories...

at both the treatment and system level

- ❖ Parents NEED to trust their story
- ❖ Professionals CAN trust parent stories
- ❖ Parents feel EMPOWERED when allowed to share their story
- ❖ Systems are IMPROVED when parents' stories are heard and valued



Parents feel EMPOWERED

- ❖ Individual stories are seen as valuable
- ❖ Parental concerns receive a practical response
- ❖ A peer support system opportunity is created



Systems are IMPROVED

- ❖ “No wrong door” for complaints or concerns
- ❖ Less system defensiveness, more curiosity
- ❖ Opportunity to catch systemic issues earlier



How can you use parent stories to improve your work with families?

- ❖ Trust the story
- ❖ Develop and utilize informal complaint processes
- ❖ Allow space for every story to be an avenue for system improvement

Every. Story. Matters.

Jen Griffis

jengriffis@gmail.com

208-507-1754

Instagram - @superkidsmama

www.raisinguperkidsinc.org
